

PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOLHOUSE



Excellence in garrison
Excellence in the field

By 1st Lt. William Jackson
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FORT INDIAN TOWN GAP, Pa. — Since 1995, the men and women of the 211th Engineering and Installation Squadron here have been training America's E&I professionals.

The Lightning Force Academy, which trains Department of Defense civilians, officers and enlisted from all branches, is staffed by five full-time instructors. These professionals have more than 100 years of combined experience and are recognized as experts in the field.

THEY CAN DO IT ALL

The LFA instructors mobilize annually to hone their skills and to practice new technologies that they can incorporate into the curriculum.

By working on projects such as the Electronic Systems Center Defense Satellite Communications System upgrade in Japan, a C4 Infrastructure Restoral Project in Virginia, and a communications radio relocation project in West Virginia, the cadre of

instructors bring real-world experience back to the classroom.

THEY TEACH IT, THE WORLD USES IT

Knowledge gained from the LFA is being used around the globe.

In garrison, the entire Air National Guard is directly benefiting from the skills gained by the 211th EIS and other E&I squadrons trained at the LFA.

When the Air National Guard Readiness Center at Andrews AFB, Md., needed to upgrade its telecommunications system, they called on the 211th EIS to take the lead. The 22-person team installed 38 miles of fiber optic cable and 133 miles of copper cable, which provides voice, data and video capability to more than 600 users anywhere within the center.

The knowledge gained from the LFA and skills put into practice at the Air National Guard Readiness Center at Andrews surely illustrate the 211th's vision, "To be above all others in providing command and control, communications, computers, and intelligence capabilities to the nation."



» To date, the Air National Guard is leading the way when it comes to E&I. From the schoolhouse to the front, Pennsylvania's citizen Airmen are stepping out from behind the lectern to lend a hand in the Global War on Terror.

JARGON WATCH

- » LFA: Lightning Force Academy
- » EIS: Engineering and Installation Squadron
- » C4: Command and control, communications and computers

The Syllabi

The curriculum, which is recognized by the Community College of the Air Force, includes:

- » Electronic Standards Installation Practices Training
- » Cable and antenna SIPT
- » Fiber optics
- » Local Area Networking
- » Computer Aided Drafting
- » E&I specific project engineering
- » Team chief training
- » Quality Assurance courses